--- “Series of 1883” - 25 Cigars - BLUE - “blunt ends” - 295 x 22 mm. ---

Judging by the ***blue strips*** printed in the regular “Series of 1883”, in December 1880 upon assuming the responsibility for the procurement and the distribution of Customs strips (as of July 1881) the Inland Revenue Department ceased the preparation of specifically designed “Customs Stamps” and beginning with the “Series of 1883” simply printed the regular tobacco stamps in blue ink for this purpose.

The catalogue lists the blue twenty-five cigar “Series of 1883” as follows:

RG-304(L) - 25 cigars, blue, perf 12, *lithographed* on horizontal mesh wove, with ‘pointed ends’ - 4 mm. red controls
RG-306(L) - 25 cigars, blue, perf 12, *lithographed* on horizontal mesh wove, with ‘pointed ends’ - 5 mm. red controls

RG-317 - 25 cigars, blue, coarse roulette, *recess printed* by hand press on horizontal mesh wove, with ‘rounded ends’, with 4 mm. red control numbers, 293 x 22 mm. design

3rd BABN Contract (1878-1886)	John McKay records 40,100 *lithographed* “25 Blue Cigars” as ‘delivered’.
4th BABN Contract (1886-1892)	John McKay records 50,955 *lithographed* and 175,500 *recess printed* by hand press copies of “25 Blue Cigars” as ‘delivered’.
5th BABN Contract (1892-1897)	John McKay records that 121,730 *lithographed* and 15 *recess printed* by hand press copies of “25 Blue Cigars” as ‘delivered’.

--- lithographed - pointed ends - 325 x 22mm ---

3rd BABN Contract	40,100 lithographed	**000001** to **040100** - **RG-304(L)**
4th BABN Contract	50,955 lithographed	**040101** to **091055** - **RG-306(L)**
5th BABN Contract	121,730 lithographed	**091056** to **212785** - **RG-306(L)**
	212,785	

--- recess printed by hand press - blunt ends - 295 x 22 mm ---

4th BABN Contract	175,500 recess printed	**212786** to **388286** - **RG-317**
5th BABN Contract	15 recess printed	**388287** to **388302** - **RG-317**
	175,515	

Did the control numbers run in *separate* sequences for the pointed end, and the blunt end strips, or were they integrated into one unbroken whole, with the 325 mm. pointed strips bearing the initial numbers? Judging by the control numbers on **RG-317**, they were numbered in one *continuous* control sequence. The following came from Montreal prior to the return to Ottawa in 1887.

--- RG-317 - *coarse roulette* - blunt ends - 4 mm red controls - 295 x 22 mm - scanned at 50% scale ---

★**RG-317** - 25 cigars, blue, *coarse roulette*, *recess printed* on vertical mesh wove, with 4 mm. control **251734**

★**RG-317 CP** - 25 cigars, blue, *coarse roulette*, *recess printed* on vertical mesh wove, with 4 mm. control **251751**, stamped **CANCELLED** in 3 mm. Gothic letters

23059	RG-317	25 cigars, blue, coarse roulette, used and broken rollered **CUSTOMS / CIGARS / Montreal**
236451	RG-317	25 cigars, blue, coarse roulette, recess printed on vertical mesh wove, rollered **CUSTOMS / CIGARS / Montreal**
251734★	RG-317	25 cigars, blue, coarse roulette, recess printed on vertical mesh wove
251751 ★	RG-317 CP	25 cigars, blue, coarse roulette, recess printed on vertical mesh wove
267286	RG-317 CP	25 cigars, blue, coarse roulette, recess printed on vertical mesh wove

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File path is [c:\ CR - STAMPS \ RG_STAMPS \ 1883 \ Blue \ 25 cigars - blunt ends],
In MS Word 2007 for Windows 7,
Formatted for a HP CP 1525 Laser Jet,
October 13th 2013 - JBH